

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01541 181225Z  
ACTION SS-25

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O R 181155Z MAR 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2266  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1541

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN  
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCAULIFFE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, AWACS  
SUBJECT: NATO AEW: FINAL AGREEMENT OR FUNERAL?

1. DISGRUNTLED ALLIED PERMREPS AND SYG LUNS AT DPC  
MEETING MARCH 18 RAKED FRG PERMREP PAULS AND ME OVER  
THE COALS FOR FAILING TO BRIEF ON THE RESULTS OF THE  
LEBER-BROWN MEETING INSOFAR AS NATO AEW IS CONCERNED.  
THEY GRIPED THAT LUNS HAD CANCELLED THE FINANCIAL  
EXPERTS MEETING SLATED FOR NEXT WEEK FOR REASONS NOT  
YET CLEAR, THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS WERE EXPECTED TO  
ATTEND A MINISTERIAL MEETING WHOSE RESULTS COULD NOT  
YET BE PREDICTED, THAT EVEN THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING  
WAS UNCLEAR, AND THAT THE FRG AND US, IN EFFECT, WERE  
NOT COMING CLEAN WITH THEIR ALLIES.

2. ACCORDINGLY, I NEED TO HAVE, FOR A SPECIAL MEETING  
NOW SET FOR MARCH 21, GUIDANCE ON WHAT I CAN TELL THE  
ALLIES ABOUT OUR EXPECTATIONS FROM A MINISTERIAL  
MEETING MARCH 25.  
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PAGE 02 NATO 01541 181225Z

3. I FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN MINISTERS LEARN THEY  
WILL BE COMING TO BRUSSELS TO REACH NO FIRM DECISIONS,  
SOME WILL BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE. HOWEVER, IF  
WE CAN MAKE IT CLEAR WE FAVOR THE MEETING TO (A)  
GET A CLEAR READING ON POSITIONS, (B) ASSESS THE  
SITUATION AND (C) DECIDE ON NEXT STEPS, I THINK WE  
CAN GET A GOOD TURNOUT.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE  
THAT LEBER AND PAULS MAY VIEW THE MARCH 25 MEETING

AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEIR RELUCTANT COLLEAGUES IN BONN AND TO THE GERMAN PUBLIC THAT FRG NON-AGREEMENT IS THE LAST OBSTACLE TO A NATO AEW PROGRAM, AND TO USE THIS FACT AS A MAKEWEIGHT IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT IN BONN -- BOTH WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE BUNDESTAG -- TO FRG PARTICIPATION. FURTHERMORE, LEBER MAY BELIEVE THAT THE UK WILL DEFER CHOOSING THE NIMROD ROUTE WHILE HE PLAYS OUT THIS HAND. I, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE FRG'S NOTION THAT THE UK WILL BE WILLING TO WAIT; I BELIEVE THE UK WILL OPT FOR NIMROD IF MINISTERS DO NOT AGREE THIS MONTH ON A NATO AEW PROGRAM.

5. AS I HAVE STATED IN ANOTHER MESSAGE, MULLEY MAY,

ON REFLECTION, DECIDE TO STAY AWAY FROM A MINISTERIAL MEETING IN WHICH THE UK MIGHT WIND UP AS THE SCAPEGOAT.

6. NONETHELESS, I THINK WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT A MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MARCH 25, JUST ON THE CHANCE WE AND THE UK CAN GET THE FRG TO SIGN ON. BUT I ALSO BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO NEXT STEPS SHOULD THE ALLIES NOT REACH AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 03 NATO 01541 181225Z

7. ACTION REQUESTED: URGENT GUIDANCE.STRUSZ-HUPE

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## Message Attributes

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